(b) if so, the views of the Commission regarding the plight of farmers and main recommendations of this Commission;

(c) the reasons for abandoning agriculture by farmers; and

(d) by when Government would take a decision on the recommendations of this Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The National Commission on Farmers has so far submitted four Reports to the Government.

(b) and (c) According to the Commission, the declining productivity and profitability in agriculture in the recent years are perceived to have contributed to the plight of farmers in some parts of the country.

Some of the main recommendations made by the National Commission on Farmers pertain to soil health enhancement; water harvesting, water conservation and sustainable and equitable use of water; access to affordable credit and to crop and life insurance reform; development and dissemination of appropriate technologies; improved opportunities, infrastructure and regulations for marketing of produce; and the need to put in place appropriate Agricultural Biosecurity System.

(d) The recommendations of the Commission are presently under consideration of the Government.

Establishing cotton research centres

2273. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the efforts being made by Government to encourage the cultivation of international level quality of cotton in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to establish Cotton Research Centres in various parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (A) The Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) and Centres of the All Indian Coordinated Cotton Improvement

Project have developed improved varieties/hybrids of international level like Suvin, DCH 32, TCHB 213, DHB 105 etc. and package of practices for cultivation of international level quality of cotton in the country. In addition, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India provides assistance to different State Governments, ICAR and Cotton Corporation of India for production and distribution of quality seed, popularization of plant protection measures such as Integrated Pest Management, supply of bio-agents, sprayers, pheromone traps and water saving devices such as sprinkles and drip irrigation systems.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Rejuvenation of agricultural Sector

2274. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission on Farmers has recommended five point programme for rejuvenation of agricultural sector;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any plan of action; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Commission are presently under consideration of the Government. However, there are several schemes in operation for accelerating the agricultural production and productivity and increase the farmers' income.

Special package for agrarian crisis

2275. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has